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FLU VACCINATION IN OLDER ADULTS - PREVENTION OF HOSPITALIZATION

A new study in [Clinical Infectious Diseases](#) found that during the 2011-12 influenza season flu vaccination reduced the risk of flu-related hospitalization by 71.4% among adults of all ages and by 76.8% among adults 50 years and older.

Related Article: [Study Shows Flu Vaccination Prevents Hospitalizations in Older Adults](#)

CLIMATE AND INFLUENZA TRANSMISSION

Researchers at the National Institute of Health (NIH) found that cold-dry and humid-rainy environmental conditions are associated with seasonal flu epidemics. The study analyzed data from 40 countries in a simple climate-based model that maps influenza activity globally and accounts for the diverse range of seasonal patterns observed across temperate, subtropical and tropical regions.

Related News articles

NIH Press Release: [NIH Study sheds light on role of climate in influenza transmission](#)

CIDRAP Article: [Study: Flu likes weather cold and dry or humid and rainy](#)

QUADRIVALENT FLU VACCINE STUDY

A [recent study](#) in children in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* found that an inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV) was more immunogenic than two trivalent inactivated vaccines containing different flu B strains.

INTRADERMAL FLU VACCINE STUDY

A recent [comparison study](#) of Intradermal (ID) and Intramuscular flu vaccine founds that, "the ID vaccine elicited immune responses comparable to IM vaccine except for the seroconversion rate to B virus. With the exception of pain, local injection site reactions were more common with the ID vaccine, but well-tolerated and of short duration."

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

The New England Journal of Medicine [published an article](#) on the history of vaccines and the need for the development of new vaccines.

ADDITIONAL INFLUENZA-RELATED JOURNAL ARTICLES

[Influenza Virus Aerosols in Human Exhaled Breath: Particle Size, Culturability, and Effect of Surgical Masks](#)

12 ADDITIONAL FLU-ASSOCIATED DEATHS REPORTED

The CDC reported 12 additional influenza-associated pediatric deaths for the week ending March 9, 2013. A total of 99 deaths have been [reported this season](#).

EFFECT OF FLU ON CHILDREN WITH CANCER

[Children undergoing cancer treatment](#) are about twice as likely to get influenza as healthy children. Additionally, children with cancer who contract influenza are more likely to have complications or be hospitalized. About 20 percent of children with cancer who are hospitalized for influenza will also contract a severe respiratory complication. Children with cancer should be vaccinated against influenza along with people who interact with the child.

INFLUENZA-RELATED NEWS ARTICLES

- [US flu activity almost back to baseline](#)
- [Universal flu vaccine closer to reality: Scientists](#)
- [Myths About the Flu Vaccine](#)
- [Flu hits hard: Hospitalization rates up this year](#)
- [Predicting hotspots for future flu outbreaks](#)

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

A [new study](#) found that the vaccines used in the U.S. against the pandemic H1N1 flu were associated with a modestly increased risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome. However, the absolute risk of post-H1N1 vaccination Guillain-Barré syndrome was fewer than two excess cases per million people vaccinated.

Preparedness Law

On Wednesday, March 13, 2013 President Barack Obama signed into law the Pandemic and [All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act \(PAHPRA\)](#) of 2013, which reauthorizes appropriations through fiscal year 2018.

FLU WEBSITES

www.michigan.gov/flu

www.cdc.gov/flu

www.flu.gov

<http://vaccine.healthmap.org/>

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